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Letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 23 September 2011 (see annex).

On behalf of the Group of 77 and China, I would appreciate if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly under agenda items 9, 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 36, 37, 41, 45, 61, 63, 67, 68, 70, 76, 117, 123, 124, 132, 134, 136, 138, 139, 140 and 142.

(*Signed*) Jorge **Argüello**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Argentina to the United Nations
Chair of the Group of 77

Annex to the letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77

New York, 23 September 2011

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Group of 77 and China met at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 23 September 2011 on the occasion of their thirty-fifth annual meeting. The Ministers reviewed the world economic situation and the development challenges faced by developing countries and adopted the following Declaration:

1. The Ministers, after reviewing the world economic situation, note that while growth has been resilient in some developing countries, it remains lower than pre-crisis levels in most other developing countries. The majority of developing countries are still confronted by numerous shared and common problems and great challenges, such as extreme poverty, the global food crisis and continued food insecurity, high levels of unemployment, external debt burden, lack of financial aid and the negative effects of climate change. Strong and sustained growth is critical for developing countries to meet the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

2. The Ministers also restate that the global financial and economic crisis is not over and the recovery is uneven and uncertain. The systemic problems facing the global economy have to be resolved, including through the full accomplishment of the reform of the global financial system and architecture.

3. The Ministers, having in mind the worst financial and economic crisis since the great depression, which still remains, and recognizing its severe impact, which continues to affect developing countries, particularly the least developed, being deeply worried about the additional negative impact of the second wave of the crisis happening now while signifying also a serious threat to developing countries in the years to come, reiterate the recommendation to hold a follow-up conference on the financial and economic crisis and its impact on development in 2012 and stress that the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group to follow up on the issues contained in the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development will continue its work.

4. The Ministers note that the crisis has affected developing countries not only in economic terms through, inter alia, the presence of barriers to trade and finance in some of the anti-crisis measures taken by some developed countries, but also in terms of social development, leading to a major loss of jobs and difficulties for Governments in financing social programmes that address poverty or the provision of basic amenities, which threaten the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

5. The Ministers express deep concern about the ongoing adverse impact, particularly on development, of the world financial and economic crisis. In this context, the Ministers stress the necessity to urgently address the problems, emphasizing that such a crisis should not be used under any circumstances as an

excuse to slow down or not fulfil the obligations and commitments of the developed country partners towards the developing countries. Additional substantial support is needed to address poverty and unsustainable external debt and to apply solutions towards a durable response to the climate change impact experienced by developing countries.

6. The Ministers reaffirm the urgent need for an effective response to the current economic crisis, which requires the timely implementation of existing aid commitments by developed countries. A strengthened United Nations framework for enhancing coordination and complementarity should be at the centre of efforts to bridge this gap, building consensus on efficient and effective solutions for global economic, social and environmental issues.

7. The Ministers express concern that the world financial and economic crisis continues to threaten debt sustainability in some developing countries, inter alia, through its impact on the real economy and the increase in borrowing undertaken in order to mitigate the negative impact of the crisis and, in that regard, call upon all Governments to promote and contribute to the discussions, including within the United Nations and other appropriate forums, on the need and feasibility of new sovereign debt restructuring and debt resolution mechanisms that take into account the multiple dimensions of debt sustainability and its role in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

8. The Ministers reaffirm that economic and social development is the centrepiece of the objectives of the United Nations. The achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, should continue to be the overarching framework of the development activities of the United Nations system. The Ministers reiterate the need to fully implement all agreed commitments from all the major United Nations summits and conferences in the economic, social and related fields and further emphasize the need for a strengthened global partnership for development, based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies.

9. The Ministers state that the United Nations is the only global body with universal membership and unquestioned legitimacy and is therefore well positioned to address global economic governance with the objective of reaching sustainable and socially balanced economic development. The role of the United Nations in global economic governance should thus be strengthened. For the United Nations to fulfil its role in global economic governance, the political will of all Member States to commit to the United Nations processes and to multilateralism and its underlying values is critical. Member States must commit to working in solidarity on coordinated and comprehensive global responses to global economic governance issues and to taking actions aimed at strengthening the role of the United Nations development system in responding to global crises and increasing its impact on development. For this the United Nations must also be equipped with the resources and capabilities necessary to effectively and quickly address global challenges.

10. In this regard, the Ministers welcome the decision adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/94 to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-sixth session, under the item entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations system", a new sub-item entitled "Central role of the United Nations system in global governance".

11. The Ministers state that there is a need for a more coherent and effective response from the United Nations on issues related to global economic governance. In this regard, an appropriate follow-up mechanism should be established within the United Nations to bridge the gap between policymaking and the implementation of commitments in this area.

12. The Ministers take note with appreciation of the report (A/65/866, annex) on the review of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 61/16 on the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and encourage all Members States, the Economic and Social Council, the regional commissions and other entities of the United Nations system to consider the recommendations contained in the report.

13. The Ministers state that global governance should also be addressed within the context of a fair and inclusive globalization supported by strengthened multilateralism. Achieving more sustainable and balanced global growth will require close coordination of macroeconomic policy decisions with other areas of global governance, including those related to the multilateral trading system; aid architecture; external debt; poverty eradication; and sustainable development, including climate change. In this regard, international financial institutions need a more coherent, representative, responsive and accountable governance, reflecting the realities of the twenty-first century.

14. The Ministers take note of the recent developments in the Bretton Woods institutions and call for an expeditious completion, as soon as possible, of a much more ambitious process of reform of the governance structure of those institutions and of an accelerated road map for further reforms on the voice, participation and enhanced voting power of developing countries based on an approach that truly reflects their development mandate and with the involvement of all stakeholders in an equitable, transparent, consultative and inclusive process.

15. The Ministers reaffirm that official development assistance (ODA) remains essential as a catalyst for development, facilitating the achievement of national development objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals. The global financial and economic crisis cannot be used by developed countries as an excuse to avoid existing aid commitments. An effective response to the ongoing economic crisis requires the timely implementation of existing aid commitments and an urgent and unavoidable need for donors to fulfil them.

16. The Ministers stress that developed countries must meet and scale up their existing bilateral and multilateral official development assistance commitments and targets made, inter alia, in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in the Monterrey Consensus, in the 2005 World Summit Outcome, at the Gleneagles summit meeting of the Group of Eight, in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development and in other relevant forums. An enhanced, predictable and sustainable flow of ODA is essential to meet the regular development challenges, as well as the new and emerging challenges in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries and other vulnerable developing countries.

17. The Ministers reiterate that, as a group, developed countries are still far from achieving the long-standing goal of mobilizing 0.7 per cent of gross national product in ODA to developing countries, including the target of 0.15-0.20 per cent of ODA to the least developed countries. In order for agreed commitments and

targets to be met, the Ministers call upon the developed countries to establish clear and transparent timetables within their national budget allocation processes to reach the level of 0.7 per cent for ODA to developing countries, including the target of 0.15-0.20 per cent to the least developed countries, by 2015 at the latest. Notwithstanding the positive impact of debt relief on development, it should not be counted as part of the ODA contribution. The Ministers reaffirm that the full implementation of these commitments will substantially boost the resources available to push forward the international development agenda and to assist developing countries in mitigating and more effectively responding to the crisis in accordance with their national strategies.

18. The Ministers recognize that innovative mechanisms of financing can make a positive contribution in assisting developing countries in mobilizing additional resources for development on a stable, predictable and voluntary basis. They reiterate that such financing should be disbursed in accordance with the priorities of developing countries, should not unduly burden them and should neither replace nor negatively affect the level of traditional sources of development financing, including ODA. While highlighting the considerable progress in innovative sources of financing for development, they also consider it important to scale up present initiatives and develop new mechanisms, as appropriate. As work is expanded and new initiatives are taken, they stress that priorities should remain focused on providing traditional development financing with additional, stable and supplementary resources.

19. The Ministers stress the importance of establishing an appropriate follow-up mechanism within the United Nations system to bridge the gap between policymaking and the implementation of commitments, particularly through the establishment of a Financing for Development Commission as a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. It is also important for Member States to support efforts to strengthen and further advance the Financing for Development process, which would help to enhance the coherence and consistency of the financial and trading systems to ensure that they support the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals.

20. The Ministers deem it important to strengthen the concepts of national ownership and leadership of their development process and policy space. The Ministers reiterate that developing countries should have the policy space required to formulate their development strategies in keeping with national development policies, strategies and priorities to reflect the particular circumstances of each country.

21. In this respect, it must be borne in mind that, in the context of the World Bank, client countries are the owners of their development policies and that selectivity in strategy and actions of that institution must be guided first and foremost by developing countries' priorities and preferences.

22. The Ministers reiterate their call for a new and significant allocation of special drawing rights at the beginning of the upcoming basic period to meet liquidity needs and promote development. Henceforth, regular allocations of special drawing rights should also be undertaken.

23. The Ministers also express their deep concern at the increasing inequality between developed and developing countries, since most developing countries have

been deprived of financial investment despite the different reforms and policies they have undertaken to create a more attractive investment climate. The reform policies are often constrained by conditionalities imposed by the international financial institutions. There is a need for conscious policy measures to facilitate foreign direct investment to developing countries, including investment guarantee schemes, favourable trade access, production and supply agreements, local processing and marketing of raw materials and commodities.

24. While recognizing that international capital flows depend largely on decisions taken by private actors, the Ministers call upon developed countries to take measures to facilitate and redirect such flows to developing countries in a more predictable, stable and equitable manner. In particular, developed countries should take concrete steps to avoid financial protectionism and rectify any measures adopted in that regard during the crisis, including subsidies to ailing industries and sectors. Additional efforts should be taken to enhance private flows in support of development and maximize the development impact of foreign direct investment, particularly with regard to linkages with domestic production activities, transfer of technology and research and development activities.

25. The Ministers stress that additional substantial resources, including short-term liquidity and long-term development financing and grants, are needed in order to achieve the development goals, in particular those related to health and education. In this regard, the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, should translate all commitments made at the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields into action.

26. The Ministers underline that middle-income countries face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, it is of utmost importance that international support, through its various forms, be well aligned with national priorities to address the special development needs of middle-income countries.

27. The Ministers also call for continued support for the development efforts of low-income developing countries in addressing their social, economic and developmental needs, including through the provision of technical, financial and other forms of assistance and the promotion and strengthening of partnerships and cooperation arrangements at all levels. The Ministers highlight that national averages based on such criteria as per capita income do not usually reflect accurately the actual particularities and special development needs of significant diverse middle-income countries.

28. The Ministers reaffirm that, in order to fully harness the potential of trade, it is important to uphold a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system that contributes to growth, sustainable development and employment, particularly for developing countries. In this context, developed countries should desist from all protectionist measures and tendencies affecting developing countries, including agricultural subsidies and non-tariff barriers to trade, and rectify any trade-distorting measures already taken.

29. The Ministers reiterate that developed countries should demonstrate the flexibility and political will necessary for breaking the current impasse in the Doha

Round of negotiations, with a view to concluding an agreement as soon as possible to achieve an early and development-oriented outcome. The early conclusion of the Doha Round would provide much-needed impetus to international markets, contributing to consolidate the recovery and establish the foundations of sustained growth.

30. The Ministers emphasize the importance of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in particular the Accra Accord, which reiterated the importance of the Conference as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues of finance, investment, technology and sustainable development, and the need to fully implement its mandate for policy analysis and policy advice, which are indispensable for building consensus on development. The Ministers look forward to the concrete and successful convening of the thirteenth session of the Conference from 21 to 26 April 2012 in Doha, on the theme "Development-centred globalization: towards inclusive and sustainable growth and development", as well as the Group of 77 and China ministerial meeting preparatory to the session.

31. The Ministers express their deep concern at the continuing shortfall of transfer of technology, know-how and expertise towards developing countries. They emphasize the need to adopt appropriate measures to overcome the technological gap between developing and developed countries and to work towards arrangements that facilitate the process of technology transfer. Technology transfer to support economic and social development and the transfer of environmentally sound and clean technologies are key to advancing the development efforts of the South. Developing countries should be enabled to develop their own technology with the support of the international community, including building local capacity to design and develop technologies.

32. The Ministers emphasize the urgent need to increase efforts at the national, regional and international levels to address food security and agriculture development as an integral part of the international development agenda. They underline the need for sustained funding and increased targeted investment to enhance world food production and call for new and additional financial resources from all sources to achieve sustainable agriculture development and food security.

33. The Ministers reaffirm that hunger constitutes a violation of human dignity and call for urgent measures at the national, regional and international levels for its elimination. They also reaffirm the right of everyone to have access to safe and nutritious food, consistent with the right to food, and the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, so as to be able to fully develop and maintain his or her physical and mental capacities.

34. The Ministers emphasize that achieving food security will require strengthening and revitalizing the agriculture sector in developing countries, including through the empowerment of indigenous peoples, rural communities and small- and medium-scale farmers, the provision of technical and financial assistance, access to and transfer of technology, capacity-building and exchange of knowledge and experience. The Ministers underscore that subsidies and other market distortions by developed countries have severely harmed the agricultural sector in developing countries, thereby limiting the ability of this key sector to contribute meaningfully to poverty eradication and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development, food security and rural

development. The Ministers, therefore, call for the immediate elimination of all forms of agricultural subsidies and other market-distorting measures by developed countries. They urge the developed countries to demonstrate the flexibility and political will necessary to meaningfully address these key concerns of developing countries at the Doha Round.

35. The Ministers welcome the adoption of resolution 15/2011 at the thirty-seventh session of the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations recommending the declaration of the International Year of Quinoa in 2013, taking into account that the Conference noted the exceptional nutritional qualities of quinoa, its adaptability to various growing conditions and its potentially significant contribution to the fight against hunger and malnutrition. In this regard, they reiterate their firm support to the resolution.

36. The Ministers express their deep concern at the constraints on the fight against poverty arising from the current global crises, in particular the world financial and economic crisis, the world food crisis and continuing food insecurity, and the energy crisis and the challenges posed by climate change to developing countries. They reiterate that special attention must be brought to the structural roots of poverty in the international system hindering the efforts of the developing countries in their fight against poverty. In this context, the Ministers reaffirm that sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for eradicating poverty and hunger, in particular in developing countries, and stress that national efforts in this regard should be complemented by an enabling international environment aimed at expanding the development opportunities of developing countries.

37. The Ministers reiterate that poverty eradication cannot be successfully achieved without the collective commitment and efforts of the international community. Therefore, international cooperation based on the recognition of national leadership and ownership of development strategies must be enhanced, including fulfilment of the commitment of internationally agreed official development assistance, debt relief, market access, capacity-building and technical support.

38. The Ministers recognize that inequality within and among countries is a concern for all countries, regardless of their level of development, and that it represents a growing challenge with multiple implications for the realization of economic and social potential and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. They stress the need to address the persistent and significant disparities between developed and developing countries and inequalities between the rich and the poor and between rural and urban populations. In this context, the Ministers reaffirm the importance of greater consideration of the impact of social and economic inequalities in development, including in the design and implementation of development strategies.

39. The Ministers firmly reject the imposition of laws and regulations with extraterritorial impact and all other forms of coercive economic measures, including unilateral sanctions against developing countries, and reiterate the urgent need to eliminate them immediately. They emphasize that such actions not only undermine the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and international law but also severely threaten the freedom of trade and investment. They therefore call upon the international community not to recognize these measures or apply them.

40. The Ministers recall the fact that, over the recent years, the world has witnessed an increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters and in the number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies. Moreover, the continuing impact of climate change and the ongoing adverse impact of the financial and economic crisis, the global food crisis and continuing food insecurity are posing additional challenges to the humanitarian response system. The Ministers stress the need to further strengthen the capacity, in particular of developing countries, to prepare for and respond to disasters, taking into account that building preparedness is a long-term investment that contributes to the saving of lives while at the same time reducing the need for humanitarian response. They call upon the United Nations system and the international community to assist developing countries in the enhancement of their existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including through the transfer of technology, funding and expertise, in order to facilitate appropriate preparedness for and response to these increasing humanitarian emergencies.

41. The Ministers also stress that respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and national unity of States must remain the overarching parameters in all efforts to coordinate humanitarian assistance. In this regard, they emphasize the primary role of the concerned State in the initiation, organization, coordination and implementation of humanitarian assistance. It is critical that affected States, donor countries, the United Nations system and other humanitarian organizations work together to provide much-needed humanitarian assistance and development support, while recognizing the primary role of the affected State.

42. Ministers reaffirm that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards sustainable development.

43. Since funding remains a challenge in the context of increasing humanitarian emergencies, in particular in developing countries, the Ministers reiterate the need to promote and achieve effective, predictable, flexible and adequate funding through enhanced partnerships and strengthened financial mechanisms for humanitarian assistance. The Ministers emphasize the importance of ensuring equitable geographical representation within the relevant United Nations bodies.

44. The Ministers reaffirm that Member States must comply fully with their obligations under international humanitarian law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949, to protect and assist civilians in occupied territories and call upon the United Nations system and the international community to strengthen their efforts to provide and facilitate humanitarian assistance to those civilians.

45. The Ministers welcome the convening of the High-level Meeting on Youth held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 and 26 July 2011 to address the theme "Youth: dialogue and mutual understanding", which adopted a substantive outcome document, recalling that it had originated from an initiative of the Group of 77 and China.

46. The Ministers note with concern that unemployment has become a global problem affecting youth worldwide, to which a global response is required. In this

regard, they urge all Member States to undertake efforts towards the development of a global strategy aimed at effectively addressing youth unemployment.

47. The Ministers welcome the convening of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 22 September 2011 to reaffirm the global political commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, and underline the adoption of its political declaration entitled "United against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance".

48. The Ministers reaffirm the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference in 2009 and welcome the progress made in many countries and regions since 2001, including through enacting legislation, while expressing their deep concern at the lack of full implementation. They call for the translation of commitment into concrete action, for appropriate measures to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference, which constitute the most comprehensive international framework in the fight against racism, and the strengthening of the follow-up mechanisms.

49. The Ministers welcome the convening of the High-level Meeting on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 and 20 September 2011 and the subsequent adoption of a political declaration. In this regard, the Ministers call for strengthening international cooperation in the area of public health to promote access to comprehensive and cost-effective prevention, treatment and care programmes for the integrated management of non-communicable diseases, including increased access to affordable, safe, effective and quality medicines and diagnostics and other technologies.

50. The Ministers note with grave concern that non-communicable diseases have become an epidemic of challenging proportions, which undermines the sustainable development of Member States. They reaffirm the right of Member States to protect public health and, in particular, to ensure access to medicines and diagnostic and medical technologies for all, including through the full use of the flexibilities of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), as confirmed by the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health of 14 November 2001.

51. The Ministers welcome the adoption of General Assembly resolution 65/198 of 21 December 2010, by which the General Assembly decided to organize a high-level plenary meeting, to be known as the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, to be held in 2014, in order to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples, including to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and also invited Member States to fully participate in this event. The Ministers look forward to the consultations on the modalities for the meeting, including on the participation of indigenous peoples in the Conference.

52. The Ministers urge the international community to address the challenges caused by international migration on the basis of common responsibility of all nations, genuine partnership and common understanding, in order to assure that

international migration can contribute to the development of both origin and destination countries while minimizing the negative impacts.

53. The Ministers call upon all Member States to renew the political will to address the challenges and opportunities of international migration, both regular and irregular, in a balanced manner and to promote respect for and protection of human rights in the development and implementation of policies regarding migration. In this regard, they stress the importance of official development assistance and other sources of international resource mobilization to support the efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and promote the right of peoples to development, as a key instrument to control migration flows, which are motivated, inter alia, by the search for better welfare and job opportunities.

54. The Ministers reaffirm their strong support to the United Nations and to all collective efforts aimed at enhancing its ability to fully implement its mandates and to ensure the effective delivery of all its programmes, in particular in the social and economic development field. The Ministers firmly believe that the legitimacy and viability of any reform measures depend ultimately on the approval of States Members of the United Nations. The Ministers emphasize that measures to reform the United Nations should respond to its unique intergovernmental, multilateral and international character.

55. The Ministers reaffirm that the quantity, quality and predictability of development assistance from the United Nations system constitute a central priority for developing countries. In addition, the growing imbalance between core and non-core resources for operational activities must be addressed as a matter of urgency. They note that the increasing shift from core to non-core funding tends to lead to fragmentation and can impair the effectiveness and efficiency of operational activities, as non-core resources are unpredictable and increase transaction costs, inefficiency, incoherence and fragmentation of the United Nations system, including at the country level, causing competition among organizations, as well as inviting them to divert from their respective mandates. Therefore, the Ministers call upon donor countries to provide adequate financial resources in order to restore the balance between core and non-core funding resources and to ensure an expanding and adequate base of resources for development.

56. The Ministers reaffirm that strengthening the role and capacity of the United Nations development system to assist countries in achieving their development goals requires continued improvement in its effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact, along with a significant increase in resources. In this regard, the fundamental characteristics of United Nations operational activities for development must remain, among others, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and their multilateralism, as well as their ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner. Moreover, operational activities should be carried out for the benefit of recipient countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own national policies and priorities for development.

57. The Ministers stress the importance that the entire United Nations system, as well as the Bretton Woods institutions and bilateral donors, recognize the ownership of the developing countries concerned, align their cooperation programmes with the national development strategies of those countries and harmonize, as appropriate, their individual cooperation programmes with a view to making the optimal contribution to the realization of national development strategies.

58. The Ministers reiterate their support for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Brazil in 2012 to review the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002. The Ministers state that an overview of the results achieved shows that there are persistent implementation gaps, as well as many unfulfilled commitments by the international community. The challenges faced by developing countries, as a result, are intensified by the effects of the multiple and interrelated global crises, from which the world is still suffering, particularly the food crisis, climate change, the global economic and financial crisis as well as the energy crisis. These challenges are posing serious threats to the achievement of sustainable development and internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

59. The Ministers believe that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 and all its preparatory processes offer an important opportunity to deeply and frankly reflect on where we have failed and why. Assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development in our view, would show the failures and how to move forward without making the same mistakes again in dealing with not only the old challenges but also the new and emerging ones. A fragmented approach has been adopted towards sustainable development. Unsustainability and overconsumption in developed countries are having a negative impact on the health of the Earth. The Ministers stress the need for a more systemic and integrated approach to the three pillars of sustainable development, taking into consideration the negative impact of human activities on ecosystem dynamics and functioning.

60. The Ministers conclude that the success of our common efforts is closely linked to the means available to ensure effective implementation and policy space for sustainable development. They reaffirm that the issue of the means of implementation must be underscored, as a global responsibility, given the global nature of the challenges the world faces today. Therefore, the fulfilment of previous commitments and the provision of new and additional resources is crucial to enhance the United Nations capabilities in the area of implementation. In this regard, it is imperative that the United Nations regular budget resources allocated to all mandated development activities, including those related to sustainable development, be increased, in order to ensure predictable and adequate funding.

61. The Ministers emphasize the importance of addressing energy issues, including access to affordable energy and energy efficiency, as well as the sustainability and use of energy sources, as part of global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote sustainable development.

62. The Ministers support the implementation of national policies and strategies to combine, as appropriate, the increased use of new and renewable energy sources and low-emission technologies, the more efficient use of energy, greater reliance on advanced energy technologies, including cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and the sustainable use of traditional energy resources, to promote access to modern, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy services; to enhance national capacities to meet the growing energy demand, supported by international cooperation in this

field; and to promote the development and dissemination of appropriate, affordable and sustainable energy technology, as well as the transfer of such technologies on mutually agreed terms.

63. The Ministers maintain that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is the primary international intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change. In this sense, they recall that an appropriate response to this challenge should address mainly the roots of the problem and not its consequences alone.

64. The Ministers underline the fact that developing countries continue to suffer from the adverse impacts of climate change and the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events. They also recall the challenges faced by developing countries from the impact of response measures. Climate change threatens not only the development prospects and the achievement of sustainable development but also the very existence and survival of societies.

65. The Ministers emphasize that the mandate of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention is to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2012, in accordance with the Bali Action Plan, and are committed to fulfilling it. They believe that the full and prompt implementation of the Cancun Agreements, as well as finding appropriate solutions to issues not addressed at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, would be vital to fulfilling the mandate of the Bali Action Plan. On this basis, the Ad Hoc Working Group must continue its work with a view to presenting its results to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session.

66. The Ministers underline the importance of mitigation as part of a balanced and ambitious outcome in Durban, South Africa. They reiterate that appropriate treatment of mitigation, as determined in the Bali Road Map, demands a decision at the seventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, to be held in Durban, on establishing the commitments of the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. In this regard, the Ministers express their concern that current mitigation pledges from developed countries parties in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiations are not adequate to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions so as to hold the increase in global average temperature in accordance with what is required by science and urge developed countries to raise their level of ambition.

67. The Ministers reiterate the need for enhanced and urgent actions on the provision of financial resources and investments to support actions on mitigation, adaptation and technology cooperation to developing countries. The Ministers call for the full operationalization of the Standing Committee to assist with respect to the Financial Mechanism of the Convention, the technology mechanism and the Adaptation Committee in Durban.

68. The Ministers reiterate their call on States Parties included in annex II to the Convention to intensify their efforts aimed at fulfilling their commitments on the provision of adequate, predictable, new and additional financial resources, enhancing technology development and transfer, meeting the costs of adaptation and strengthening capacity-building in developing country parties in accordance with

article 4, paragraphs 3 to 5, of the Convention. The historical imbalance in financing to the detriment of adaptation must be redressed, and adaptation and mitigation financing must be treated equally. The Ministers recall that, according to decision 1/CP16, a significant share of new multilateral funding for adaptation should flow through the Green Climate Fund.

69. The Ministers recall that the Group of 77 and China were a major force in the negotiation of the law of the sea, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The positions of the Group of 77 and China remarkably influenced the consecration of some crucial law of the sea concepts inextricably linked to sustainable development: the exclusive economic zone, where the coastal State enjoys sovereign rights over the natural resources and the seabed and ocean floor beyond the limits of national jurisdiction ("the Area"), in which the exploitation of the resources has to benefit mankind as a whole, irrespective of the geographical location of States, whether coastal or landlocked, and taking into particular consideration the interests and needs of developing States.

70. In this regard, the Ministers recall that General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV) and, subsequently, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea crystallized in a conventional norm the principle of the common heritage of mankind, to which the Group of 77 and China had adhered from its inception, in 1967.

71. The Ministers recognize that a major challenge to developing countries has arisen in the law of the sea: the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction. The exploitation of and benefit from resources of a maritime area that is a common heritage of mankind by a few is inconsistent with the general principles of international law, including those on equity, as the Area and its resources are to benefit mankind as a whole. In this context, the Ministers stress that the status quo is not an option.

72. The Ministers emphasize that the basic principle enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and in General Assembly resolution 2749 (XXV) applicable to these resources is that of the common heritage of mankind, and that a specific legal regime for the biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction needs to be developed in the form of an implementing agreement to the Convention based on that principle. Such an implementing agreement has to be negotiated as a package and must encompass the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction, including genetic resources, the sharing of benefits taking into account intellectual property rights, scientific research, capacity-building and the transfer of marine technology.

73. The Ministers recognize the important outcomes of the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Nagoya, Japan, from 18 to 29 October 2010 and from 11 to 15 October 2010, respectively, which represent a significant contribution to the comprehensive implementation of the three objectives of the Convention, and take note with appreciation of the positive assessments of the performance of the secretariat during the meetings.

74. The Ministers call for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for 2011-2020 as the overarching biodiversity framework and for ongoing efforts

aimed at translating the Aichi Biodiversity Targets into national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The Ministers take note of the adoption and opening for signature of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization. As the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity for 2011-2020 provides a unique opportunity to engage the people of the world in the battle to protect life on Earth, the Ministers reaffirm their commitment to spare no efforts for the successful implementation of the objectives of the decade.

75. The Ministers reaffirm the importance of the Multi-Year Plan of Action for South-South Cooperation on Biodiversity for Development to be adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Hyderabad, India, in October 2012, as a major tool at the service of the biodiversity agenda.

76. The Ministers recall the disastrous effect that desertification and land degradation continue to pose to all the regions of the world and the serious threat they represent to sustainable development at the national, regional and global levels and call upon the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification at its tenth session, to be held in Changwon, Republic of Korea, from 10 to 21 October 2011, to take concrete measures.

77. The Ministers express concern and solidarity over the situation in the Horn of Africa region, which was hit by the worst drought in 60 years, leading to starvation and loss of crops and livestock. This clearly reflects the severity of drought and desertification problems and the imperative for action.

78. The Ministers stress that poverty, food security and desertification are intrinsically linked to each other and need to be tackled jointly. In this regard, the Ministers firmly called upon all parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, to fully support the implementation of the Convention in all its aspects, in particular by promoting the exchange of knowledge on best practices and lessons learned from global and regional cooperation in combating desertification, land degradation and drought. In this context, the Ministers take note with appreciation of the outcome of the African regional meeting held in Algiers from 7 to 9 September 2011 in preparation for the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties and take note of the Latin American and Caribbean regional meeting preparatory to the session, held in Mexico City from 5 to 7 September 2011.

79. The Ministers stress the need to cooperate at the global and regional levels with a view to preventing and managing dust storms and sandstorms, including through the sharing of related information, forecasting and early warning systems. The Ministers stress that combating dust storms and sandstorms demands financial support and the transfer of technology from developed countries to developing countries.

80. The Ministers also stress that emphasis should also be given to mobilization and channelling of adequate and predictable financial resources, as well as facilitating direct access to them, in order to help mitigate the effects of desertification, land degradation and drought and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable people affected by these most urgent matters at the national, subregional and regional levels.

81. The Ministers welcome the observance of 2011 as the International Year of Forests as a unique opportunity to raise public awareness of how sustainable forest management contributes extensively to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in particular with respect to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability, as well as of global efforts to fight climate change and combat desertification and the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, along with numerous other benefits for the betterment of the livelihoods of people.

82. The Ministers therefore reaffirm the potential significant contribution of sustainable forest management to sustainable development and poverty eradication; the need to promote the implementation of the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests and its four global objectives on forests; and the importance of addressing financial gaps in sustainable forest management by the establishment of a new Global Forest Fund in the framework of the United Nations, in line with the principles of sustainable development, in order to address the financing needs of countries to sustainably manage their forests, in particular developing countries with special needs and circumstances, including African countries, least developed countries, low forest cover countries, high and medium forest cover countries, high forest cover low deforestation countries and small island developing States. They call upon the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development to recognize the value of forests and their contribution in the areas of sustainable development, energy and food security, poverty reduction, land degradation and water conservation, biodiversity conservation and climate change.

83. The Ministers recall the special needs of Africa, the only continent currently not on track to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. They recognize that, while economic growth is returning, there is a need to sustain the recovery, which is fragile and uneven, to face the ongoing adverse impacts of multiple crises on development and the serious challenges these impacts pose to the fight against poverty and hunger, which could further undermine the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in Africa.

84. The Ministers express their profound concern that the commitment to doubling aid to Africa by 2010, as articulated at the Gleneagles summit meeting, was not entirely reached and, in this regard, stress the need to make rapid progress in order to fulfil the Gleneagles and other donors' commitments to increase aid to African countries through a variety of means, including the provision of new and additional resources, technology transfer and capacity-building, and to support their sustainable development. On the other hand, the Ministers welcome the support that some developing countries have extended to Africa through South-South and triangular cooperation programmes.

85. The Ministers express their deep concern that the least developed countries are the most off track in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and are at the bottom of the Human Development Index rankings and that they have been unable to overcome their economic vulnerability and structurally transform their economies or build resilience against internal and external shocks and crises.

86. In this context, the Ministers take note of the outcome of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, which was held in Istanbul,

Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011. While noting that the Istanbul Programme of Action falls short of expectations, the Ministers emphasize the full, timely and effective integration and implementation of all the commitments and actions by the least developed countries, their development partners and other relevant stakeholders. The Ministers consider that the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action should have been to enable at least half of the countries to graduate by the end of its implementation. For this purpose, the Istanbul Programme of Action should commit to increasing and sustaining high-level economic growth, promoting sustainable development and addressing the impact of multiple crises and emerging challenges through structural transformation. The Ministers further underline the need to give due priority to the countries' issues and concerns in all major United Nations conferences, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

87. The Ministers emphasize the need for the timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access, on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, as expressed in the Istanbul Programme of Action. They stress the importance of facilitating the accession of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries that apply for membership in the World Trade Organization, without political impediments, in an expeditious and transparent manner and with full observance of the principles of special and differential treatment for developing countries.

88. The Ministers reiterate their recognition of the special needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked developing countries, caused by their lack of territorial access to the sea and aggravated by their remoteness from world markets, and their concern that the economic growth and social well-being of landlocked developing countries remain very vulnerable to external shocks, as well as the multiple challenges the international community faces, including the financial and economic crisis and climate change, and stress the need for the international community to enhance development assistance to landlocked developing countries to help them overcome their vulnerabilities, build resilience and set themselves on a path of sustainable social and economic development. They therefore reaffirm the need to urgently address the special development needs of and challenges faced by the landlocked and transit developing countries through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action, as contained in the Declaration of the high-level meeting of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action.

89. The Ministers recall that the unique and particular vulnerabilities of small island developing States have been acknowledged by the international community since the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (1992), the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Barbados (1994), the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg (2002), and the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in Mauritius (2005) and note with concern that insufficient steps have been taken at the international level to address the vulnerabilities and effectively support their sustainable development efforts, including in achieving the internationally agreed development goals.

90. The Ministers recall that climate change and rising sea levels pose the greatest threat to the survival and viability of small island developing States and their efforts to achieve sustainable development goals and, in this regard, called upon the international community to commit itself to urgently increasing international cooperation to support those efforts, particularly through increased financial resources, capacity-building, transfer of technology and know-how, and increased participation of small island developing States in international economic decision-making.

91. The Ministers reaffirm that the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly is the sole Main Committee of the Organization entrusted with responsibilities for administrative, financial and budgetary matters. In this regard, the Ministers request that any budgetary, financial and administrative matters, including those related to the establishment of a peacekeeping operation or a special political mission, be discussed solely in the framework of the Fifth Committee, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations.

92. The Ministers strongly support the oversight role performed by the General Assembly, as well as its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation. They reaffirm that any Secretariat and management reform efforts, including on its budget process, must not intend to change the intergovernmental, multilateral and international nature of the Organization but must strengthen the ability of Member States to perform their oversight and monitoring role. They also reaffirm the right of the entire membership of the United Nations to pronounce on the administration of the Organization, including on its budgetary matters.

93. The Ministers reaffirm the principle of "capacity to pay" as the fundamental criterion in the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations and, while recalling General Assembly resolution 64/248, reject any change to the elements of the current methodology for the preparation of the scale of assessments aimed at increasing the contributions of developing countries. In this regard, they emphasize that the core elements of the current methodology of the scale of assessment, such as base period, gross national income, conversion rates, low per capita income adjustment, gradient, floor, ceiling for least developed countries and debt stock adjustment must be kept intact and are not negotiable.

94. The Ministers stress that the current maximum assessment rate, or ceiling, was fixed as a political compromise and is contrary to the principle of the capacity to pay and a fundamental source of distortion in the scale of assessments. In this context, they urge the General Assembly to undertake a review of this arrangement, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 55/5 C.

95. The Ministers affirm that the current principles and guidelines for the apportionment of the expenses of peacekeeping operations approved by the General Assembly in its relevant resolutions should constitute a basis for any discussion on the peacekeeping scale. In this regard, the Ministers stress that the peacekeeping scale must clearly reflect the special responsibilities of the permanent members of the Security Council for the maintenance of peace and security. The Ministers also recall that the economically less developed countries have a limited capacity to contribute towards the budgets of peacekeeping operations. In this context, the Ministers emphasize that any discussion on the system of discounts applied to the peacekeeping scale should take into account the conditions of developing countries,

whose current positions must not be negatively affected. The Ministers stress, in this regard, that no member of the Group of 77 and China that is not a permanent member of the Security Council should therefore be categorized above level C.

96. The Ministers reaffirm that the financial stability of the United Nations should not be jeopardized by arbitrary measures. The Ministers stress that any efforts to use financial contributions to push for the adoption of certain proposals are counterproductive and violate the obligations of the Member States to provide resources for the Organization, as enshrined in its Charter.

97. The Ministers, in this context, reject all unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law, which obstruct and sometimes impede payments of assessed contributions from members of the Group of 77 and China to the budgets of the Organization.

98. The Ministers also express concern over the closure of the official bank accounts of Member States of the Group, which has impaired the proper functioning of the missions and the payment of Member States' contributions to the Organization. In this regard, the Ministers stress that the private nature of the banking system does not relieve the host country of its responsibility to ensure unrestricted banking services to permanent missions of the Member States of the Group in New York and urged the host country to fulfil its obligations accordingly.

99. The Ministers strongly reaffirm the legal obligation of all Member States to bear the financial expenses of the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and urge all Member States to pay their assessed contributions on time, in full and without conditions. They also stress that the special and genuine difficulties faced by some developing countries, which temporarily prevent them from meeting their financial obligations, should be fully taken into account and that the decisions of the General Assembly on the agenda item "scale of assessments" must be responsive to such difficulties.

100. The Ministers stress that the level of resources to be approved by the General Assembly must be commensurate with all mandated programmes and activities in order to ensure their full and effective implementation. They also reaffirm the priorities of the Organization as approved by the General Assembly and the need for the Secretary-General to reflect these priorities when presenting proposed programme budgets.

101. The Ministers express their concern at the budget cuts that are proposed for the biennium 2012-2013 that could have a negative impact on the implementation of mandates approved by intergovernmental bodies, particularly in the development pillar.

102. The Ministers reiterate that there is a need to strike a balance in reflecting the agreed priorities of the Organization in the allocation of resources to the United Nations regular budget, which is persistently to the detriment of the development activities. In this regard, the Ministers also stress that the Secretariat must strictly implement General Assembly mandates without exceptions or delays.

103. In this context, the Ministers stress that the strengthening of the United Nations and its role in international cooperation for development is essential to respond to current and future challenges and opportunities emanating from the process of globalization. They recognize that the United Nations needs to improve

its capabilities and capacities to fully implement its mandates and to ensure the effective delivery of its programmes in the social and economic development field. In this regard, they urge the Secretary-General to further strengthen the development pillar of the whole organization, including its Development Account.

104. The Ministers stress the importance of ensuring that the Secretariat meets the highest standards of accountability, transparency, integrity and ethical conduct. The Ministers, therefore, urge the Secretary-General, as a matter of priority, to fully implement General Assembly resolution 64/259.

105. The Ministers express concern at the inadequate share of the developing countries in the United Nations system of procurement. They emphasize that United Nations procurement should be on as wide a geographical basis as possible with preferential treatment for the developing countries. They further underline that the United Nations supplier roster should be representative of the membership of the Organization and underscore the need to implement concrete measures to ensure greater market access by businesses from developing countries in United Nations procurement.

106. The Ministers stress the need to increase the representation of developing countries, in particular at the senior levels, to improve the geographic distribution in the Secretariat and to increase transparency in the recruitment process.

107. The Ministers reiterate their call for the immediate and full withdrawal of Israel, the occupying Power, from the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 and from the remaining Lebanese occupied land. They reaffirm their support for a Middle East peace process aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the region, in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) and 1850 (2008), and the principle of land for peace. In this context, they also reaffirm their support for the Arab Peace Initiative endorsed by the Arab Summit Conference in March 2002.

108. The Ministers stress the need for the early realization by the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and to the independence of the State of Palestine to allow for their stability, prosperity and development towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, to which all peoples are entitled. The Ministers express support for the efforts of the Palestinian people to achieve independence and welcome in this regard the submission of Palestine's application on 23 September 2011 for full membership in the United Nations.

109. The Ministers condemn the ongoing Israeli military occupation of the Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the illegal actions by the occupying Power that continue to cause civilian casualties, socio-economic and humanitarian hardship and destruction to Palestinian properties, infrastructure and agricultural lands and to undermine the contiguity, unity and integrity of the Territory.

110. The Ministers express deep concern about the further decline of the social and economic conditions of the Palestinian people, particularly in the besieged Gaza Strip, as a result of illegal Israeli practices, including construction of settlements and the Wall and the imposition of a blockade and hundreds of checkpoints. They call upon Israel, the occupying Power, to immediately cease all illegal measures

impairing the Palestinian economy and development, in particular the inhumane and illegal blockade imposed on the Gaza Strip and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including commercial trade, throughout, into and out of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and to make reparation for all damages caused to Palestinian properties, institutions and infrastructure. They reiterate their call upon the international community to continue providing much-needed development and humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people during this critical period, particularly for reconstruction and economic recovery in the Gaza Strip.

111. The Ministers reaffirm the need for the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to resume negotiations in accordance with the principles and the objectives of the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute relating to the question of the Malvinas Islands, which seriously damages the economic capacities of Argentina, and the need for both parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply the introduction of unilateral modifications in the situation while the Islands are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

112. The Ministers reiterate their position that South-South cooperation is a complement to, rather than a substitute for, North-South cooperation and reaffirmed that South-South cooperation is a collective endeavour of developing countries based on the principle of solidarity and premises, conditions and objectives that are specific to the historic and political context of developing countries and to their needs and expectations, and as such South-South cooperation deserves its own separate and independent promotion as reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, held in Nairobi from 1 to 3 December 2009, and the Development Platform for the South mandated by the Second South Summit of the Group of 77, held in Doha from 12 to 16 June 2005.

113. The Ministers stress that South-South cooperation and its agenda must be driven by the countries of the South. As such, South-South cooperation, which is critical for developing countries, requires long-term vision and a global institutional arrangement as envisioned at the Second South Summit.

114. The Ministers reaffirm the importance of strengthening South-South cooperation, especially in the current international economic environment, and reiterate their support for South-South cooperation as a strategy to sustain the development efforts of developing countries and as a means of enhancing their participation in the global economy. They reiterate the frameworks and the principles of South-South cooperation as endorsed at their thirty-fourth annual meeting, held in New York on 28 September 2010.

115. The Ministers stress that the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation is the central multilateral policymaking body in the United Nations system to review and assess global and system-wide progress on and support for South-South development cooperation, including triangular cooperation, and to provide overall guidance on future directions. The Ministers urge all partners interested in supporting South-South cooperation to be guided by the principles and objectives for such cooperation established in such internationally agreed documents as the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, which was endorsed by the

General Assembly in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, and the Nairobi outcome document on South-South cooperation, which was endorsed by the Assembly in its resolution 64/222 of 21 December 2009, as well as other relevant General Assembly resolutions. The Ministers therefore reiterate the Group's position that any policy debate outside the United Nations system should be guided by the agreed framework above and the Yamoussoukro Consensus on South-South Cooperation.

116. The Ministers reiterate the request made by the Heads of State and Government at the Second South Summit, reaffirmed in the Nairobi outcome document, that the Secretary-General, in consultation with States Members of the United Nations, take measures to further strengthen the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, as reaffirmed by the General Assembly in its resolutions 58/220 of 23 December 2003, 60/212 of 22 December 2005 and 62/209 of 19 December 2007, so as to enable it to carry out its full responsibilities, in particular through the mobilization of resources for the advancement of South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation. In this context, the Ministers invite the Secretary-General and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to take the measures necessary to upgrade the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in order to give it the visibility that it deserves as mandated by the Heads of State and Government. In this context, the Ministers mandate the Chair of the Group of 77 to initiate discussions on options to implement the relevant decision of the Summit in the light of the ongoing Joint Inspection Unit review process during the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

117. The Ministers stress that South-South cooperation should be explicitly incorporated into the operational programmes of all relevant bodies of the United Nations system and that there should be coordination among various entities on the most effective way to support it. In this context, they welcome the recent initiatives undertaken by various United Nations bodies to establish new units and work programmes to support and promote South-South cooperation and urge other entities of the United Nations system to intensify their efforts to include South-South cooperation in the mainstream of their activities. In this context, the Ministers reiterate the call to the United Nations funds and programmes, as well as to the specialized agencies, to take concrete measures to mainstream support for South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation, in order to help developing countries to develop capacities to maximize the benefits and impact of South-South and triangular cooperation.

118. The Ministers recognize the need to mobilize adequate resources for enhancing South-South cooperation and, in this context, invite all countries in a position to do so to contribute in support of such cooperation through, inter alia, the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation. In this context, the Ministers encourage the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to take additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more financial and in kind resources, while avoiding the proliferation and fragmentation of financing arrangements.

119. The Ministers welcome the launch of the Group of 77 global South-South network of scientific institutions, namely the Consortium on Science, Technology and Innovation for the South, and congratulate the Chair and the Executive

Secretary of the Group of 77 in New York, as well as the Consortium's Coordinator and Focal Point for the Paris Chapter, for their outstanding efforts and leadership in the operationalization of the Consortium. In this context, the Ministers recall decision 45 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) at its 185th session, held in Paris on from 5 to 21 October 2010, urging the Director-General of UNESCO to provide the technical support necessary for the operationalization of the Consortium and to cooperate with the Group of 77 and China in mobilizing the extrabudgetary resources needed for the implementation of such a project and for the convening of the first General Conference of the Consortium prior to the Third South Summit of the Group of 77 and China.

120. The Ministers take note of decision 39 adopted by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 186th session, held in Paris from 3 to 19 May 2011, entitled "Reactivation of the activities of the International Fund for the Promotion of Culture", and stress the urgent need for and the importance of its full implementation by the Director-General of UNESCO, emphasizing the intellectual and operational autonomy of the Fund.

121. The Ministers recall that the Second South Summit mandated the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, stressed the urgent need to strengthen cooperative efforts to build and utilize networks, institutional capacity and expertise in such areas as science and technology, research and standards development and requested the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, in collaboration with the South Centre, to facilitate this objective. In this context, they also welcome the convening by the South Centre of a brainstorming session on South-South cooperation in science and technology and the future role of the Consortium held in Geneva on 8 July 2011 and encourage the Special Unit and the South Centre to convene technical preparatory meetings in accordance with the South Summit mandate above. They also welcome the ongoing efforts by the Chair of the Group of 77 in New York to convene a high-level meeting on science and technology for development on the occasion of the World Science Forum, to be held in Budapest, Hungary from 17 to 19 November 2011.

122. The Ministers decide to rename the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries as the Intergovernmental Follow-up and Coordination Committee on South-South Cooperation and, in this context, invite the Asian Member States and other interested member countries of the Group of 77 to come forward with an offer of venue for hosting its thirteenth session in 2012. They also invite Member States to host sectoral meetings in various fields of cooperation, including South-South forums for parliamentarians, mayors, youth, media and civil society, as envisaged in the Doha Plan of Action, adopted at the Second South Summit.

123. The Ministers note that, in view of the mounting and intractable challenges that developing countries face, more frequent high-level meetings of the Group on thematic or sectoral issues and with action-oriented outcomes might be required. To this end, the Ministers invite members of the Group of 77 to make offers to host high-level meetings of the Group on these issues, as appropriate.

124. The Ministers recall the Development Platform for the South and invite member countries of the Group of 77 to host meetings of the high-level panel of

eminent personalities of the South with a view to updating the Platform, taking into account the evolving realities and challenges that the developing countries face.

125. The Ministers note the postponement of the preparations for the Third South Summit and invite the Chair of the Group of 77 to undertake consultations with Member States of the African region and other interested countries of the Group of 77 for the hosting of the Summit to be held at a convenient date.

126. The Ministers recall General Assembly resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003 and decide that a draft decision should be presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session proposing that, beginning in 2012, the observance of the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation be changed from 19 December to 12 September to mark the day in 1978 when the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries adopted the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries in Buenos Aires.

127. The Ministers approve the report of the twenty-sixth meeting of the Committee of Experts of the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund for Economic and Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries and endorse its recommendations. The Ministers commend the Chair of the Fund for his continued commitment and express their satisfaction with the results achieved by the Fund. In the light of the prevailing low level of interest earnings of the Fund caused by the current world financial situation, as reported by the Chair of the Fund, the Ministers appeal to all Member States to make significant contributions to the Fund on the occasion of the United Nations Joint Pledging Conference for Development Activities, to be held in New York on 8 November 2011.

128. The Ministers approve the financial statement of the Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries account of the Group of 77, as presented by the Chair of the Group of 77, and urge those Member States that have not yet done so to make special efforts to pay their outstanding contributions.

129. The Ministers express their deep appreciation to Argentina for its able leadership and for its excellent work and tireless efforts as the Chair country of the Group of 77 for 2011. As 2011 proved to be a challenging year for all developing countries, the commitment shown by Argentina as Chair country in pursuing the goals and objectives of the Group of 77 was a source of profound gratitude. The Ministers also commend the efficient work and continued valuable support provided by the secretariat of the Group of 77 in New York to the Chair country and to the Member States and congratulated the Executive Secretary of the Group of 77 on the achievement award presented to him during the opening ceremony of the ministerial meeting in recognition of his outstanding performance, continued commitment and dedication to the goals and objectives of the Group of 77.

130. The Ministers warmly welcome the election by acclamation of Algeria to the Chairmanship of the Group of 77 for 2012.

131. The Ministers welcome the admission of Nauru as a member of the Group of 77.